

US Army Corps of Engineers ® Walla Walla District

Lower Snake River

JUVENILE SALMON MIGRATION

Feasibility Study

SEPTEMBER 1997



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is conducting a feasibility study of ways to improve juvenile salmon migration through the hydropower system on the lower Snake River. The study focuses on how the lower Snake River dams can be changed to improve survival and recovery prospects for Snake River salmon stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act.

STUDY UPDATE



Greg Graham is the Corps Project Manager for the study.

I believe we have made great progress in many

areas. The Drawdown Regional Economic Workgroup has completed a major plan of study and begun their analysis. Columbia River reservoir operation modelers have developed specifications for system models. The engineers have developed some very good, although preliminary plans for drawdown and other system improvements. Tremendous amounts of data have been collected in areas such as wildlife, resident and anadromous fish, and water quality. I would like to thank all the team members who have completed this work for their effort. With that said, the lion's share of the work lies ahead of us. The schedules are very tight and resources are at a premium.

Due to the critical nature of our objectives, the Corps is committed to conducting this study within a regional forum and with intense regional coordination. I would like to thank

the government agencies that have accepted our offer to become partners in this study (see page 2, *Coordination Efforts*). I believe the technical expertise and experience these agencies bring to this effort will make it much more thorough and complete.

Our goal is to enable stakeholders and other interested parties to offer input into the effort and understand what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what trade-offs are involved. I hope that our coordination efforts prevent any surprises at the study's conclusion.

Public Involvement Opportunities



Do you want to learn more and/or offer your perspective on this study? Four upcoming public meetings will provide

opportunities to interact with study team members.

The Corps will hold public meetings this month in Boise, Idaho (September

17); Lewiston, Idaho (September 18); Kennewick, Wash. (September 23); and Portland, Ore. (September 25). See page 6 for meeting dates, times, places, and contacts.

The Corps will open each meeting with an explanation of study objectives, a video presentation on project history and potential project impacts, and a discussion of the three pathways and alternatives currently under consideration. A general question and answer session will follow.

The rest of each meeting will be structured so that individuals and/or small groups can meet to talk with the study team about specific questions and issues of concern.

The goal of these meetings is to provide an informal opportunity for interested parties to ask questions and offer input for consideration by study team members who will be making a recommendation to Congress regarding the future of the lower Snake River.